

The items of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was first cited in a European Search Report issued by the European Patent Office on November 27, 2003. A copy of the European Search Report is enclosed for the Examiner's consideration.

Documents DE 195 15 895 and FR 2 625 545 are listed on the accompanying PTO Form 1449 and are in a language other than English. English language abstracts are provided.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached PTO Form 1449.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitute "Prior Art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "Prior Art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

Attorney Docket No.: 040894-5766

Application No.: 10/092,352

Page 3

EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

Dated: February 23, 2004

By:



Peter J. Sistare

Reg. No. 48,183

CUSTOMER NO. 009629

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP

1111 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20004

Telephone: (202) 739-3000

Facsimile: (202) 739-3001

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;"> <div style="margin-left: 20px;">PTO Form 1449</div> </div>		Attorney Docket No. 040894-5766		Application No.: 10/092,352			
		Applicants: Keijiro Murayama, et al.					
		Filing Date: March 7, 2002		Group Art Unit: 3753			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
*Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
		5,435,342	July 25, 1995	Kohn et al.			
		4,683,905	August 4, 1987	Vigneau et al.			
		4,579,042	April 1, 1986	Neff			
		5,562,121	October 8, 1996	Hodges et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	<u>Translation</u> YES NO
		2 625 545	July 7, 1989	France			X
		04298691 (abstract only)	Oct. 22, 1992	Japan			
		DE 195 15 895 A1	Oct. 31, 1996	Germany			X
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							
		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">RECEIVED</div> <div style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin-bottom: 10px;">MAR 03 2004</div> <div style="font-size: 1.1em; font-weight: bold;">TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700</div>					
Examiner				Date Considered			
Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							